

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT Consumer Advisory Board

## Meeting Summary Wednesday, July 9, 2014

**Members Present:** Patricia Checko (Co-Chair); Arlene Murphy (Co-Chair); Jeffrey G. Beadle; Alice Ferguson; Bryte Johnson; Stephen Karp; Robert Krzys; Theanvy Kuoch; Sharon D. Langer; Richard J. Porth

**Members Absent:** Michaela I. Fissel; Kevin Galvin; Cheryl Harris Forbes; Nanfi Lubogo; Cece Peppers-Johnson

**Other Participants:** Mary Boudreau; Sean Bradbury; Heather Campobianco; Angela Harris; Elizabeth Krause; Robin Lamott Sparks; Sheldon Toubman

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

### 1. Public Comment

Sheldon Toubman, a staff attorney with Greater New Haven Legal Aid, spoke about the previous day's meeting of the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC). The MAPOC discussed the proposal for Medicaid inclusion in the SIM Test grant application. He said it was inappropriate to force more than 200,000 Medicaid beneficiaries into shared savings and that the proposed 1115 waiver was problematic due to its global cap. He said the SIM Program Management Office (PMO) and Department of Social Services should go back to their earlier commitment to pilot shared savings with the Medicare-Medicaid dually-eligible population ([see correspondence posted here](#)).

The board discussed the Medicaid proposal with Mr. Toubman. Arlene Murphy said the latest draft of the application referenced exploring the possibility of an 1115 Waiver rather than outright pursuing it. Mr. Toubman said referencing it at all creates an expectation. Patricia Checko said the idea with the waiver was to demonstrate a geographically targeted project under the 1115 research and demonstration component. Sharon Langer suggested the proposal explicitly spell out the planning process the state plans to use to determine the direction of the Medicaid proposal. There are plans to schedule a meeting that will include MAPOC leadership and SIM consumer/advocate representatives to further discuss the Medicaid proposal.

### 2. May 27<sup>th</sup> Minutes

***Motion: to adopt the minutes of the May 27<sup>th</sup> Consumer Advisory Board meeting with corrections. – Robert Krzys; seconded by Stephen Karp.***

Ms. Murphy said that on page 1, paragraph 4 it should state that Alta Lash expected a greater variety of provider types at the table.

***Vote: all in favor.***

### 3. CAB recommendation regarding Yvette Bello's position on the Consumer Advisory Board

Yvette Bello took a position for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and has stepped down from her position at Latino Community Services. She suggested the board consider her successor,

Fernando Morales, to fill her seat and represent the Latino community. The board would be making a recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor for his appointment.

***Motion: to recommend to the Lieutenant Governor that Fernando Morales of Latino Community Services to fill the Consumer Advisory Board Vacancy left by Yvette Bello – Richard Porth; seconded by Bryte Johnson.***

Alice Ferguson said that Mr. Morales would be as good an advocate as Ms. Bello was and he is as committed. Mr. Beadle said he endorsed Mr. Morales as well and added he would be a welcome addition.

***Vote: all in favor.***

#### **4. Update on the grant timeline and work groups**

The PMO plans to submit the grant on July 16. There have been many meetings about the grant so far. The only work group that has met is the Practice Transformation Taskforce. Ms. Murphy said she was proud of the work of the consumer advocates at the taskforce meeting. The taskforce agreed to use NCQA person-centered medical home standards as the standard for the advanced medical home and to work with NCQA to modify the standards to meet the state's need (particularly with regard to behavioral and oral health).

It is anticipated that the grant budget will be released that day. The board leadership participated in a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor and other advocates. The meeting focused on the Medicaid proposal. The participants agreed to two principles: 1) to do no harm to Medicaid clients; 2) to create an appeals process. Dr. Checko said that many changes to the application were made as a result of that meeting. Jeffrey Beadle said that DSS Commissioner Roderick Bremby was clear that the grant was a road map open to revision.

#### **5. Discussion on Consumer Engagement budget and narrative for the test grant application**

Dr. Checko filled in for Mr. Beadle at the last meeting of the SIM Core Planning Team. This is the group charged with designing the grant application. Dr. Checko reviewed the consumer engagement portion of the application. It contains staff support for broad activities and resources to fund engagement activities such as listening tours and communications materials. Elizabeth Krause recommended including funding for expert consultants.

#### **6. Review of feedback from Monday check-in**

Ms. Murphy said there have been many concerns expressed with respect to the state developing its own standards for its medical home in lieu of existing national standards. That concern has been addressed. Other concerns raised include the change in the number of Medicaid clients in shared savings payment arrangements and the community health worker program. Dr. Checko asked whether there are other concerns that have not yet been raised. Ms. Kuoch said that there was not enough minority representation on the steering committee and that they need to look at healthcare transformation and innovation for those groups that are frequently ignored. It was noted that while some attention should be paid to special populations, the proposal would impact 100% of the state. It is important to balance protecting special populations while transforming the entire healthcare experience.

#### **7. Update and discussion of SIM grant narrative**

Board members each gave their opinion on the latest draft of the grant narrative. Several board members stressed the importance of the community health worker piece of the narrative. Ms. Kuoch said they could be used to address cultural issues, serve as wellness coaches, and become a trusted source. Dr. Checko said she was concerned the approach was too clinical.

Mr. Krzys said there is under service in the current health care system and the Equity and Access Council is important to addressing it. He suggested that shared savings might be shared with beneficiaries in ways that could incentivize health behaviors. He likened this to the way value based insurance design works in the state employee health plan.

Mr. Karp said he struggles with the idea of shared savings in Medicaid, particularly if there is downside risk. He had concerns about the global cap in the 1115 waiver as the most recent draft does not spell out proposed changes. He also said that the 200,000 Medicaid clients in shared savings arrangements should be phased in over time. He also wanted to see greater behavioral health integration.

Mr. Beadle highlighted community outreach projects with community health centers. He, too, wanted to see more behavioral health integration. He said he was excited by the possibility of using the 1115 waiver for non-traditional services, particularly for the state's homeless population.

Ms. Murphy said she was pleased to see changes in language regarding the 1115 waiver and the commitment to a deliberative process. She also raised concerns about shared savings, particularly how it might be implemented for the general population beyond Medicaid. She said protections for under service could be strengthened. She is pleased with the strength of the consumer engagement piece.

Dr. Checko said that in order for the state to see significant improvements overtime, the changes must impact a large enough group. Many of the 200,000 Medicaid clients receive care at Federally Qualified Health Centers and those clients will see improved care. She said more needs to be done to reach out to physicians who do not take Medicaid. The group discussed physician recruitment, which falls under the purview of the Workforce Council. Dr. Checko said the council's work should focus beyond medical students and community healthcare workers and to the healthcare field as a whole.

There were concerns raised about health information technology, particularly whether Medicaid data would be included in the All Payer Claims Database. Robin Lamott Sparks said that while DSS has said it cannot be, other states do include Medicaid data in their APCDs.

## **8. Discussion of letter of support for the test grant application**

There were concerns raised that the board would not write a letter of support without seeing the final application. Mr. Beadle said the grant is transforming in response to the concerns raised. The letter of support could reassert the board's key principles in the context of the grant implementation. Dr. Checko said that without the grant, there would be no money for the board to engage in its desired activities. The board discussed the letter in the context of the concerns raised regarding the Medicaid proposal and whether the language regarding under service was strong enough. Mr. Beadle asked whether they were reaching consensus and in a position to support the grant. He said he wasn't minimizing the passion others have but that he was committed to moving forward.

Mr. Krzys asked what a letter of support might look like. A draft could be released and the board could vote on it early the next week. He said the board is not necessarily buying into the final product but rather buying into continuing the process. Mr. Karp said the board could highlight the areas it supports. Ms. Ferguson suggested the letter include language that highlights the issues the board spent a great deal of time discussing. While they may not have reached consensus, they will

continue to address those issues, she said. Dr. Checko said that was a good suggestion as it would indicate the board did take time to deliberate the issues.

#### **9. Next Steps**

The board chairs will draft the letter and aim to share it with the rest of the board on July 11. The board will then have until noon on July 15 to vote to support the application.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.